Export of tea

468. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in export of tea in quantity and value during the last two years, year-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government's efforts to boost the export did not produce the desired results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHR! RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Export of tea from India, in quantity terms, registered an increase in the year 2000 as compared to 1999 but showed a decline in 2001. In value terms, also tea exports have shown a decline over the past two years. Details of export of tea since 1999 are given below:

Year	Quantity (million kgs.)	Value (Rs. in crore)
1999	191.72	1965.87
2000	206.82	1898.61
2001	182.59	1682.11

(c) Indian tea is facing increasing competition from other tea producing countries like Sri Lanka, China, Kenya, Indonesia, Vietnam etc. in the global market. Despite this and other factors like higher prices resulting from higher cost of production of Indian tea, tariff and non-tariff barriers imposed by some importing countries, tea exports increased from 191.72 million kgs in 1999 to 206.82 million kgs. in 2000 due to the efforts of the GovernmentATea Board. However, tea exports declined in 2001 mainly on account of the lower offtake by Russia due to factors tike the shift in their consumption of tea from CTC (crush-tear-curl) teas to orthodox teas. Decline in unit price of tea is largely responsible for the decline in tea exports in value terms.